

Announcement of an effort to restore water quality in the Clinch River including Plum Creek, Middle Creek and Coal Creek in Tazewell County, Virginia

PUBLIC MEETING LOCATION: Cedar Bluff Town Hall, 115 Central Ave, in Cedar Bluff, Virginia, on July 8, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy and the Department of Conservation and Recreation are announcing a study to restore water quality, a public comment opportunity, and public meeting.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: First public meeting on a study to restore water quality

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: DEQ is working to identify sources of pollutants affecting the aquatic organisms and sources of bacteria contamination in the waters of the Clinch River including Plum Creek, Middle Creek and Coal Creek in Tazewell County, Virginia. The Clinch River is impaired for failure to meet the *Recreational Use* because of fecal coliform bacteria violations, as well as violation of the E. coli standard from the Lincolnshire Branch confluence downstream to the Pounding Mill Branch confluence and from the Dry Branch confluence downstream to the Mill Creek confluence. Plum Creek, Middle Creek and Coal Creek are also impaired for failure to meet the Recreational Use because of bacteria violations. Coal Creek is impaired for failure to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms as well.

During the study, the pollutants impairing the aquatic community will be identified and total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, developed for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. DEQ will also determine the sources of bacteria contamination and develop a TMDL for bacteria. To restore water quality, contamination levels must be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes public meetings and a public comment period once the study report is drafted. After public comments have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, July 9, 2010 to August 10, 2010. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW FACT SHEETS: Fact sheets are available on the impaired waters from the contacts below or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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